



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**May 11, 2006**

**For immediate release**

- 1. Waste management, nitrogen on EPC May agenda**
- 2. Diesel fuel spills near Sabula**
- 3. Public's help needed to improve water quality in the Cedar River**
- 4. DNR enforcement actions**

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT, NITROGEN ON EPC MAY AGENDA**

DES MOINES – Commissioners will be asked to approve waste management projects that would establish three new regional collection centers and expand four centers.

These regional centers provide education on collecting and disposing of hazardous wastes, and facilities for proper disposal. If approved, the number of counties providing regional collection will increase to 78 throughout the state.

Commissioners will also consider a staff recommendation to form a working group that would consider prohibiting manure application on soybean fields. The DNR staff recommends that the working group consider timing, new federal rules, the impact of changing manure management plans from nitrogen-based to phosphorus index-based, and limitations of staffing.

In other action, commissioners will learn about the accomplishments achieved in cleaning up rivers through Project AWARE, A Watershed Awareness and River Expedition. Volunteers will have the opportunity to clean up a fourth river, the Iowa River from south of Iowa City to the Mississippi River, during this year's June 17 to 24 event.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The full agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Election of Officers
- Contract - Scrap Tire Market Development Program – Recommendations
- Contract – Regional Collection Center Establishment Grants – Recommendations
- Contract - U.S. Dept. of Energy Rebuild America Grant – Community Energy Clean Sweep – Fort Dodge Project
- Contract - University of Northern Iowa's (UNI) Iowa Waste Reduction Center – Small Business Assistance Program
- Contract – MSA Professional Services – Wastewater Technology Guidance
- Contract Amendment - Update of the National Wetlands Inventory for Iowa - Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
- Contract with University of Northern Iowa for a Dry Run Creek Ecotoxicological Evaluation
- Contract – University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory – Beach Monitoring for 2006
- Final Rule – Amend IAC 567 Chapter 105 – “Organic Materials Composting Facilities”
- Final Rule – Chapters 50 through 54 – Water Use and Water Allocation Rules
- Air Quality - Title V Fee SFY 2007 Budget
- Final Rule: Air Quality Program Rules Chapters 20, 21, 22, and new Chapter 34: Adoption of the federal Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR).
- Review of Assessment Methods for Estimating Atmospheric Deposition of Mercury Compounds in Iowa
- Final Rule: Air Quality Program Rules Chapters 22, 23, 25 and new Chapter 34: Adoption of the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR).
- Notice of Intended Action - Chapters 20, 22 and 31 and 33, Air Quality Program Rules – Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) rules
- Contested Case Decision - Colleen Weber
- Manure application on ground that will be planted into soybeans
- Project AWARE Update
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Items for next month's meeting
- Upcoming Meetings
  - June 19, 2006 at Lake Rathbun

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

The members of the commission are Darrell Hanson, chair, Manchester; Jerry Peckum, vice chair, Jefferson; Lisa Davis-Cook, secretary, West Des Moines; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; Donna Buell, Spirit Lake; Mary Gail Scott, Cedar Rapids; David Petty, Eldora; Suzanne Morrow, Storm Lake; and Henry Marquard, Muscatine. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

**For more information, contact Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.**

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## **DIESEL FUEL SPILLS NEAR SABULA**

**SABULA** — About 40 to 60 gallons of diesel fuel spilled in a national wildlife and fish refuge Wednesday night when a semitrailer lost control near Sabula.

Around 9 p.m. Thursday, the truck carrying peat moss lost control and went over the causeway that crosses the Mississippi River. The truck came to rest at the bottom of a 20-foot embankment in backwaters of the Mississippi River, located in the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The driver received minor injuries.

The truck spilled diesel fuel and other fluids, such as transmission fluid, as well as peat moss that helped soak up the liquids. A small amount of fuel made it into the water, creating a sheen.

Booms are in place to contain the spill to a small area, and cleanup is underway to remove contaminated soil. The U.S. Highway 52 bridge connecting Sabula and Savanna, Ill. will be closed until cleanup is complete.

“The quick response from all the agencies involved was excellent and helped us to minimize the spill,” said Chad Kehrli, an environmental specialist with the DNR’s Manchester field office.

The Davenport hazardous materials team and staff from the Jackson County Sheriffs Department, Sabula Fire Department, Iowa Department of Transportation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DNR responded to the spill.

**For more information, contact Chad Kehrli at (563) 927-2640.**

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## **PUBLIC’S HELP NEEDED TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE CEDAR RIVER**

*Public meetings announced for Charles City, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids*

**DES MOINES** — The DNR is seeking your suggestions, comments and questions on how to improve water quality in the Cedar River basin. From the Minnesota line to Mason City, from Waverly to Cedar Rapids, the DNR is looking for your input.

Whether you live near the Winnebago, Shell Rock or Cedar River, the quality of the water in those rivers affects the drinking water supply for people downstream. That includes Cedar Rapids, where excess nitrates are causing problems with the water supply.

To address these issues, the DNR has developed a draft water quality improvement plan, also known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). TMDLs are calculations that determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The plan includes information on how conservation efforts in the watershed, or area that drains into the river, can improve water quality.

To discuss the draft plan, the DNR will hold public meetings in Charles City, Waterloo and Cedar Rapids at the following times and locations:

- Charles City: May 15, 2 p.m., Charles City Public Library, 106 Milwaukee Mall.
- Waterloo: May 15, 6 p.m., Hawkeye Community College, Room 107A, Tama Hall.
- Cedar Rapids: May 17, 1 p.m., Coe College, Kesler Lecture Hall at Hickok Hall.

Water quality monitoring shows that the Cedar River is impaired, or polluted, from where it meets McLeod Run to where Bear Creek enters the river, just upstream of Cedar Rapids. High nitrate levels keep this stretch of the river from meeting its designated use as a drinking water supply for thousands of residents. These people get their drinking water from shallow wells in sand and gravel deposits associated with the Cedar River.

Excessive levels of nitrate can make drinking water unsafe for pregnant women and infants under six months old, even if the water is used in infant formula or is boiled or filtered. Nitrates are water soluble and can make their way into water from runoff from farm fields, residential lawns and golf courses.

Iowans can submit comments on the Cedar River plan via e-mail, phone or mail (contact information below). The public comment period will close at 4:30 p.m. on June 2, 2006.

To receive a copy of the draft plan and supporting documents, contact:

Internet: [www.iowadnr.com/water/watershed/tmdl/publicnotice.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/water/watershed/tmdl/publicnotice.html)

E-mail: [chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us)

Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791

Mail: Chris Van Gorp, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

After receiving public comments, the DNR will forward the draft plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

**For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791 or Allen Bonini at (515) 281-5107.**

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions in April 2006, unless otherwise noted. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

### **Administrative Orders**

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Edward Branstad of Forest City and Jordan Branstad of Leland were ordered to properly dispose all solid waste from a site in Winnebago County and to pay an \$8,000 penalty. The order is in regard to open burning and dumping violations. The order was issued in February and has been appealed.
- Monroe “Monty” Branstad, of Leland, was ordered in an amendment to a 2004 administrative order to properly dispose all solid waste and to pay an \$8,000 penalty. The order is in regard to open burning violations. The order was issued in February and has been appealed.

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- The City of Everly agreed in a consent order to comply with its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, to comply with a schedule for sewer and wastewater treatment system improvements and to pay stipulated penalties if the schedule is not met. The consent order is in regard to wastewater violations.
- Tony Mertens, of Mount Pleasant, agreed to pay annual compliance fees for 2003 and 2004, submit an application for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and to pay a \$4,000 penalty. The order is in regard to animal feeding operation violations at a site in Lee County.

### **Withdrawn Orders**

The following orders have been withdrawn by the DNR:

- The DNR and John Thola, individually and on behalf of Maquoketa Shoreline Development, Inc., agreed to the withdrawal of a 2004 administrative order regarding alleged wastewater violations.

**For more information, contact Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.**